

## **Muskie Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Eligibility**

#### **I applied for the Diversity Lottery 2012 in October 2011 - Am I still eligible to apply for the Muskie Program?**

Yes, you can apply to the Muskie program, but if you win the diversity visa lottery, you must choose either the Muskie program or U.S. Permanent Residency. If you apply for U.S. Permanent Residency, you are no longer eligible for the Muskie program.

#### **I studied in the U.S. on an exchange program sponsored by the Soros Foundation. Am I still eligible to apply for the Muskie program?**

Yes the Soros Foundation is a private entity, not the U.S. Government.

#### **Is a newly-returned Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) alum eligible?**

Yes, as the TEA program is exactly 6 weeks in duration, TEA alums are not required to fulfill the two-year residency requirement before applying for the Muskie program.

#### **I have not yet finished my undergraduate degree – can I apply for the Muskie program?**

No, you must already have completed your bachelor degree *at the time that you are applying for the Muskie program*.

#### **Can I apply for the Muskie program if I am currently living and studying in another country?**

No.

### **Muskie Application**

#### **Can I apply to the Muskie Program for more than one field of study?**

No.

#### **I received my degree in Foreign Languages, with an emphasis on English – am I eligible to apply for the Muskie program to study Business Administration?**

Yes, you are eligible. In your application, you may want to explain why your educational and career goals have changed.

#### **Can I apply to the Muskie Program online?**

No, there is no online Muskie application. Only hard copies of the application will be accepted, and they must be delivered to the US Embassy by the November 11, 2010 deadline.

#### **Can somebody else bring the Muskie application to the U.S. Embassy for me?**

Yes, it is fine if someone else brings the application to the Embassy for you, but they should show some kind of personal ID in order to turn the application.

#### **Should I report TOEFL or GRE scores even if they are more than two years old and no longer valid?**

Yes, but do not register to take the exam again. If selected as a finalist, the Embassy staff will arrange the exam for you.

**Do recommendation letters need to be in signed, sealed envelopes?**

No, this is not required. However, if one of the people writing a recommendation letter for you would prefer to submit the letter in a sealed envelope, they may.

**Do the translations of my grades and transcripts need to be notarized?**

No, for the initial Muskie application, you are only required to provide on the forms included in the application materials a list of the courses you have taken and the grades you received. Official transcripts will only be required if you are selected to proceed to the semi-finalist stage.

**Miscellaneous**

**What is an "open competition"?**

"Open" refers to the fact that the process of accepting applications and determining award recipients is a transparent process with clear and open criteria. The application procedure and requirements are identical for all potential applicants and not based on personal connections. All individuals who meet the eligibility requirements may apply and all valid applications are considered. There are no nominations or "in-house" candidates. As this is a merit-based competition, each applicant is judged individually based on his or her own merits; there is no weight given to whom the applicant knows or who is interested in recommending him or her.

**I applied to the program in the past but wasn't chosen. Why?**

Some possible reasons are:

- Proposal poorly written or unclear aims and objectives for participating in the program.
- No plausible reason given for needing to pursue a fellowship in the U.S.
- Proposal failed to demonstrate need for professional development or new scholarship.
- Application received after the deadline or was incomplete.
- Academic field not eligible.
- Did not meet all the eligibility requirements.
- Determined that applicant lied or misrepresented information in the application.
- Applicant made weak impression on interviewing committee.
- Applicant's English skills were insufficient to pursue academic work at a U.S. university.

**Can I apply again?**

Provided that you did not lie or misrepresent information in your previous application, or (in the event you were ineligible) your status has changed so that you meet the eligibility requirements, you may reapply. To reapply, you **MUST** submit a new application with all new accompanying documents, including recommendation letters. Applications change every year, and **NO** application materials are kept on file or returned to the applicant.

**I'm from a major city; does that help or hinder my chances?**

Geography plays a limited role in determining whether or not an individual is chosen as a participant. The Muskie Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, nationality, creed, gender or city of residence. Individuals are chosen based on the strength of their applications and ability to impact their academic and local communities upon completion of their Fellowship.